EXHIBIT F

BEFORE THE BOARD OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE OF UTAH

UTAH CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB, et al, Petitioners, vs. UTAH DIVISION OF OIL, GAS & MINING and ALTON COAL DEVELOPMENT, LLC, Respondents.	**Declaration of Erik C. Petersen, P.G.** Docket No. 2009-005 Cause No. C/025/0005

DECLARATION

I, Erik C. Petersen, declare under penalty of perjury as follows:

I have personal knowledge of each of the facts set forth below and if called upon to do so could and would testify regarding the following. This declaration is filed in opposition to the Sierra Club et al's ("Sierra Club") Request for a Hearing before the Utah Board of Oil, Gas & Mining on the Reasons for Approving a Surface Coal Mining Permit for Alton Coal Development LLC ("Alton") and in support of Alton's Response to the Sierra Club's Request.

1. I am currently a principal of Petersen Hydrologic LLC of Lehi, Utah.

2. I am a Professional Geologist licensed in the State of Utah.

3. Since 2005 I have been retained by Alton to obtain and analyze hydrologic data in support of its Application for a coal mining permit for the Coal Hollow Project in Kane County, Utah.

4. I am familiar with the hydrologic monitoring data collected from the Coal Hollow site and submitted to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining ("the Division") in support of this permit application.

5. I am familiar with the Utah Coal Mining Water Quality Database ("Database") provided on the internet by the Division.

6. On December 1-8, 2009 I reviewed the water monitoring data available on the Database related to the Coal Hollow Project.

7. The attached Tables entitled "Baseline Monitoring Summary, Coal Hollow Mine" and "Baseline Monitoring Intervals, Coal Hollow Mine" summarize the amount and frequency of water quality data available through the Database.

8. The attached Table entitled Coal Hollow Mine Baseline Data lists data available from the online database for the Project.

9. I found that the Database records approximately 1000 monitoring events for the Coal Hollow area.

10. I found that the Database records information from 17 consecutive quarters of baseline monitoring activity from 2005 until 2009.

11. I found that the Database has baseline monitoring data for greater than 60 sites, although not every water quantity or quality parameter is or can be monitored at every site.

12. I found that the Database records more than 260 samples with laboratory water quality analysis.

13. I found that the Database records more than 430 field water quality measurement events for temperature, pH, and/or conductivity.

14. I found that the Database records more than 580 flow measurements.

15. I found that the Database records more than 350 groundwater level measurements.

16. In my opinion as a hydrologist, "no flow" is the appropriate observation to record when a watercourse contains no flowing water.

17. In my opinion as a hydrologist, "dry" or a similar description is the appropriate observation to record when a water source contains no water.

18. In my opinion as a hydrologist, a recorded "no flow", "dry" or similar observation provides important information in determining the seasonal variation of water quality and quantity for the water body observed.

19. In my opinion as a hydrologist, the data recorded in the Database and repeated on the attached Tables are sufficient to permit the Division to discern seasonal variations in water quality and quantity in the area of the Coal Hollow Project.

Pursuant to Utah Code § 78B-5-705, I DECLARE, under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed on this 8th day of December, 2009, in Lehi, Utah.